



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

**15 NOVEMBER 2016**

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### **(U) CALIFORNIA**

#### **(U) Mountain View – Google Moves to Restrict Ads on Fake News Sites**

(U) Google said yesterday it is working on a policy change to prevent websites that misrepresent content from using its advertising network, a move aimed at halting the spread of "fake news" and other types of misinformation on the internet. The shift comes as Google, Facebook Inc and Twitter Inc face a backlash over the role they played in the US presidential election by allowing the spread of false and often malicious information that might have swayed voters toward a particular candidate. The change is aimed at assuring that publishers on the network are legitimate and eliminating the financial incentives that appear to have driven the production of much fake news.

SOURCE: 15 November 2016, [Reuters](#)

#### **(U) San Francisco – Twitter Cracking Down on Hate Speech**

(U) Twitter says it is taking steps to crack down on hate speech, from making it easier to report alleged incidents on the social media service to educating moderators on what kind of conduct violates the rules. The effort comes as an uptick in biased graffiti, assaults and other incidents have been reported in the news and on social media since Election Day. After the election, a neo-Nazi website published a list of more than 50 Twitter users who had expressed fear about the outcome of the 2016 election, urging its readers to "punish" them with a barrage of tweets that would drive them to suicide. The FBI reports that hate crimes rose 7% in 2015, led by attacks on Muslim Americans.

SOURCE: 15 November 2016, [USA Today](#)

### **(U) NATIONAL**

#### **(U) District of Columbia – Secret Backdoor in Some US Phones Sent Data to China**

(U) Washington – Security contractors recently discovered preinstalled software in some Android phones that monitors where users go, whom they talk to and what they write in text messages. Kryptowire, the security firm that discovered the vulnerability, said the Adups software transmitted the full contents of text messages, contact lists, call logs, location information and other data to a Chinese server. The code comes preinstalled on phones and the surveillance is not disclosed to users. Because Adups has not published a list of affected phones, it is not clear how users can determine whether their phones are vulnerable.

SOURCE: 15 November 2016, [The New York Times](#)

#### **(U) Florida – Over 412 Million Adult-Website Credentials Hacked**

(U) Boca Raton – Login credentials for over 412 million users of adult websites run by California-based FriendFinder Networks Inc. were compromised last month in the largest hack of 2016, according to breach notification website LeakedSource.com. 78,301 of the accounts were registered to .mil email addresses, which are used by the US military, and another 5,650 were .gov addresses used by US government agencies. If LeakedSource's claims are confirmed, the number of email addresses would account for more than 10 times the number exposed in last year's high-profile hack of infidelity website Ashley Madison.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Georgia – Hate Crimes Against Muslims up by 67 Percent in 2015**

(U) Atlanta – Reported hate crimes against Muslims rose in 2015 to their highest levels since those seen in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, according to FBI statistics released yesterday. Civil rights groups had been raising concerns about an anti-Muslim backlash in the US even before the terror attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California, late last year. The reporting period covers calendar year 2015, but comes at a time of heightened tensions following last week's presidential election.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Minnesota – Man Gets Time Served After Renouncing ISIL**

(U) Minneapolis – Two Somali-American men from Minnesota were sentenced yesterday for conspiring to join the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria in 2014. Abdullahi Yusuf, 20, was given no additional prison time and ordered to spend the next year in a halfway house. Yusuf will also have to serve 20 years of supervised release, according to a Fox News affiliate, which reported that Yusuf had spent 22 months in custody. Yusuf had pleaded guilty and renounced ISIL in court. Abdirizak Warsame, 21, was sentenced to 2-1/2 years in prison following Yusuf's sentencing.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [Reuters](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Canada – Two Hurt in Near Miss Involving Plane and Suspected Drone**

(U) Toronto – Officials say a Porter Airlines flight approaching Toronto's island airport took evasive action to avoid a suspected drone, injuring two flight attendants. The near collision occurred yesterday morning at an altitude of about 9,000 feet. The pilots' initial assessment was that it looked like a balloon. After debriefing, they believe it was possibly a drone.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [The Washington Post](#)

**(U) Iran – 11 Arab Nations Accuse Iran of Sponsoring Terrorism**

(U) Tehran – Eleven Middle East and North African countries accused Iran of sponsoring "terrorism" and constantly interfering in the internal affairs of Arab nations, sparking tension and instability in the region. In a letter to the UN General Assembly circulated yesterday, the 11 countries cited Iran's support for Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen and the Shiite Hezbollah group in Lebanon which has sent fighters to support the Syrian government. They also accused Iran of supporting "terrorist groups and cells" in Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and elsewhere.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [The Washington Post](#)

**(U) Iraq – ISIL Ousted from Yazidi Villages West of Mosul**

(U) Erbil – A mixed Kurdish and Yazidi armed force said yesterday it had dislodged ISIL militants from five Yazidi villages west of Mosul in an offensive that began on Saturday. It coincided with a larger, ongoing Iraqi government and Kurdish offensive to recapture Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, from ISIL with aerial support from the US-led military coalition. Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militias are also in the Mosul campaign. ISIL overran the five villages in 2014 when it swept over Sinjar mountain and the surrounding region inhabited by Yazidis, killing, capturing and enslaving thousands from the Iraqi religious minority.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Netherlands – US Forces May Have Committed War Crimes in Afghanistan**

(U) The Hague – The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said yesterday that she had a “reasonable basis to believe” that American soldiers committed war crimes in Afghanistan, including torture. The international prosecutor has been considering whether to begin a full-fledged investigation into potential war crimes in Afghanistan for years. In yesterday’s announcement, the prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, signaled that a full investigation was likely. The United States is not a party to the court, which was established to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Afghanistan is a member of the court, so allegations of crimes committed in its territory, no matter the nationality of the perpetrators, are widely considered to be fair game.

SOURCE: 14 November 2016, [The New York Times](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-874-1100.**

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